(b) whether the impact would be more industrial slowdown; and

(c) what is the remedial policy?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) sanctions have been announced by some developed countries particularly USA. Loans/guarantees/insurance from US Exim Bank and OPIC would no longer be forthcoming. However, some of the loans by multilateral agencies which had been deferred have recently been approved.

(b) Though no significant impact is expected on the overall industrial production some infrastructure industries could be affected. The projects in the Power sector are not likely to be adversely affected. In telecom sector, it is expected that the cost of borrowing might rise.

(c) In conformity with the current policy of the Government various measures have been initiated to encourage foreign direct investment and investment by non-resident Indians and foreign institutional investors.

Construction cost index for project Planning

2181. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction industry has petitioned to Government for creation of a new construction cost index that would help in accurate project planning; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKNDER BAKHT): (a) no such petition was received either in this Ministry or Ministry of Urban Development.

(b) Does not arise.

Intellectual property rights

2182. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present Government propose to have a fresh lock at issues relating to intellectual property rights and the patent regime;

(b) if so, whether the Government have found any bottle-necks in the IPR and patent regime;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for giving a fresh look on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (d) The Government is not aware of any bottle-necks in the Intellectual Property Right and patent regime. However, the Government has been taking steps from time to time to modernise the intellectual property administration to improve the quality of services provided to the users of the system.

Setting up of Venture Capital Fund

2183. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Public Enterprises selection Board has suggested setting up of a Rs. 100 crore Venture Capital Fund to help Indian companies and scientists to get patents in the USA and other developed countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

भारतीय सीमेंट निगम के गोदामों से सीमेंट का नुकसान

2184. श्री राघवजी: क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1996-97, 1997-98 और 1998-99 के दौरान भारतीय सीमेंट निगम के गोदामों में से करोड़ों रुपए के सीमेंट की चोरी का पता चला था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;